

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
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FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2812
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L CONAKRY 0329

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR GV UK
SUBJECT: ILL FEELING BETWEEN GUINEA AND BRITAIN

1. SUMMARY. GUINEAN GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN
VIOLENT EXCEPTION TO BBC PROGRAMS ON GUINEA. GOG
DOES NOT ACCEPT PM CALLAGHAN'S STATEMENT THAT BBC
IS INDEPENDENT. SHOULD BBC AGAIN OFFEND
SEKOU TOURE, LATTER WILL PROBABLY ACCUSE BRITAIN
OF COMPLICITY IN MERCENARY PLOTS AGAINST GUINEA.
END SUMMARY.

2. SEVERAL WEEKS AGO THE FRENCH LANGUAGE SERVICE
OF BBC RAN TWO PROGRAMS ON GUINEA, A) AN INTERVIEW
WITH GUINEAN DISSIDENT LEADER IN PARIS WHO
CRITICIZED SEKOU TOURE REGIME AND SPOKE OF PLANS
TO OVERTHROW IT, AND B) REPORT BY BBC CORRESPONDENT
ON CONDITIONS IN GUINEA INCLUDING DESCRIPTION
OF POVERTY AND POLICE STATE ATMOSPHERE.

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3. SEKOU TOURE SENT AN ANGRY LETTER TO CALLAGHAN
DEMANDING APOLOGY AND PREVENTION OF RECURRENCE
SUCH OFFENSIVE PROGRAMS. BRITISH FIRST SECRETARY
GRADY FROM DAKAR (WHENCE UK AMBASSADOR ACCREDITED
TO GUINEA) VISITED CONAKRY 1 MARCH AND CALLED ON
PRIME MINISTER BEAVOGUI IN ORDER DELIVER CALLAGHAN'S
REPLY, WHICH WAS CONCILIATORY BUT EXPLAINED THAT HMG

HAD NO AUTHORITY TO MUZZLE BBC. BEAVOGUI, SUPPORTED BY MININFORMATION BEHANZIN AND GUINEAN AMBASSADOR TO WESTERN EUROPE SEYDOU KEITA, WAS FURIOUS WITH THIS REPLY. BEAVOGUI SAID BBC WAS GOVERNMENTAL INSTITUTION AND CALLAGHAN'S POSITION WAS NOT ACCEPTABLE. GUINEA WAS THREATENED WITH INVASION FROM SENEGAL AND IVORY COAST. GOG WOULD REGARD ANY REPETITION OF SUCH MATERIAL ON BBC AS AN UNFRIENDLY ACT SUPPORTING IMPERIALIST PLOTS AGAINST GUINEA, AND WOULD RETALIATE AGAINST UK ON GUINEA RADIO.

3. GRADY WAS SEPARATELY RECEIVED BY MININTERIORMOUSSA DIAKITE WITH OTHER MINISTERS, AND BY FONOFF SEC GEN MOROU BALDE. THESE MEETINGS PARALLELED THAT WITH PRIME MINISTER AND WERE EQUALLY EMOTIONAL AND CONFRONTATIONAL.

4. GRADY SAYS HMG HAS WARNED BBC THAT MORE REPORTING ON GUINEA WILL JEOPARDIZE BRITISH CITIZENS IN GUINEA, BUT HE THINKS IT IS ENTIRELY POSSIBLE BBC WILL NOT DESIST. HE EXPECTS GOG TO RETALIATE BY ALLEGING BRITISH COMPLICITY IN MILITARY CONSPIRACY AGAINST GUINEA.
HARROP

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